

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are amended and claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 9, 10, 12 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form. The subject matter of claims 2 and 6 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 5, respectively. Thus, as subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable is contained in each of the pending claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 11 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,999) in view of Tsutsumi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,366,820). Somewhat similarly, the Office Action rejects claims 3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold et al. in view of Tsutsumi et al. and further in view of Snow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,589,312).

As discussed above, the subject matter of claims 2 and 6 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 5, respectively. As claims 2 and 6 are not rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and as claims 3, 7, 11 and 14 depend from one of claims 1 or 5, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the

Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to Attorney Docket No. 107348-00151.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert K. Carpenter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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